

Applicant Name Missoula County Lolo RSID 901, Phase 2
Project Name Lolo Wastewater System Improvements

Project Abstract

The Lolo RSID 901 (Missoula County) Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Phase 2 Improvements Project will expand and upgrade existing facilities to achieve the following:

- Provide redundancy for critical treatment plant components to reduce the chance of discharging substandard treated effluent into the Bitterroot River;
- Reduce the number of septic systems installed in Missoula County by expanding available capacity, thereby protecting downstream water quality; and
- Increase capacity of the biological system and provide enhanced nutrient removal

These improvements include: providing standby emergency power generation; modifying and adding facilities to provide advanced nutrient removal membrane bioreactor process and capacity for future conditions; and constructing new systems to comply with increasing chlorine disinfection regulations. The total proposed cost for these improvements is \$3,607,000.

This project will benefit Montana's renewable water resources by preserving and protecting water resources from contamination. Recommended improvements will allow the Lolo WWTP to treat wastewater to a much higher standard than is currently available. Incorporating the use of membrane filtration produces an effluent which can be beneficially reused throughout the community.

Proposed improvements will encourage denser, urban-type development, which will further eliminate septic systems and provide upgrades to the aging community system, which will allow water to be used more efficiently and less wastefully.

The source of Lolo's drinking water is its sole source aquifer, an unconfined system which can be contaminated from the surface through septic systems and other pollutants. The ultimate preservation of the quality of the Missoula aquifer and the Clark Fork River Basin relies on reducing the effluent that is not being adequately treated by current systems. Connecting these systems to a central wastewater treatment plant is the only way to protect the waters of the Lolo community.